

SERVICE PROVIDER SIDE INTERACTIVE PROGRAM GUIDE ENCODER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for combining video frame sequences with a video display of
5 an interactive program guide (IPG). The apparatus comprises a plurality of compositors that
combine background information, video frame sequences and program guide graphics into a
single video frame sequence. The sequence is then digitally encoded to form an MPEG-like
bitstream. The same background information and informational video is composited with a
different program guide graphic to form another video sequence that is also encoded. A
10 plurality of such sequences are produced with each sequence having a different program
guide graphic. Each sequence is encoded and then multiplexed into a transport stream such
that all the encoded sequences are transmitted to a subscriber's terminal using a single
transport stream. As such, the subscriber can transition from one program guide to the next
without interruption of the background or video display as the program guide graphic is
15 changed.